

October 2011 Weather Summary

October was generally characterized with average temperatures and above average precipitation with day-time temperatures remaining above freezing all month. The first snow of the season arrived just in time for Halloween's trick-or-treaters to venture around town on the final day of the month.

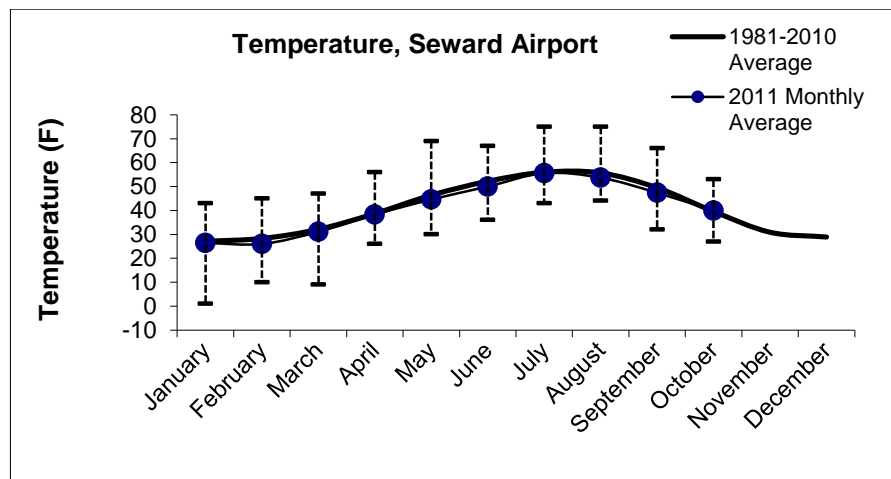
As recorded at the Seward airport, total precipitation for the month was 12.82 inches (137% of normal), exceeding the average monthly rainfall by 3.47 inches. The monthly average temperature was 39.9 degrees F (normal for October). October 4th was the warmest day of the month with a high of 53 degrees F; October 31st was the coldest day with a low of 27 degrees F. October 18th was the windiest day at the Seward airport with an average wind speed of 15.3 mph and wind gusts up to 44 mph. The strongest gust of the month in the Kenai Fjords reporting area was recorded at the Harding Icefield Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) on October 25th with a maximum wind speed of 98.7 mph.

Also of note:

- The Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force has released [a report](#) outlining the federal government's progress in expanding and strengthening U.S. capacity to better understand, prepare for, and respond to extreme events and other climate change impacts.
- [The National Snow and Ice Data Center](#) states that the minimum extent of Arctic sea ice for the year was the second lowest on record.
- New research published in [Scientific American](#) shows that the Yukon River delivers more than five tons of mercury per year to the Arctic environment, likely resulting from climate change
- [Current Biology](#) published a study demonstrating impact of ocean warming based on seaweed records.
- The [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center's](#) one month weather outlook (November 2011) favors below normal temperatures and normal precipitation for the Kenai Fjords area and maintains this prediction for the three month outlook (Nov-Dec-Jan).
- NOAA climate services portal serves as a single point-of-entry for NOAA's extensive climate information, data, products, services, and the climate science magazine [ClimateWatch](#).

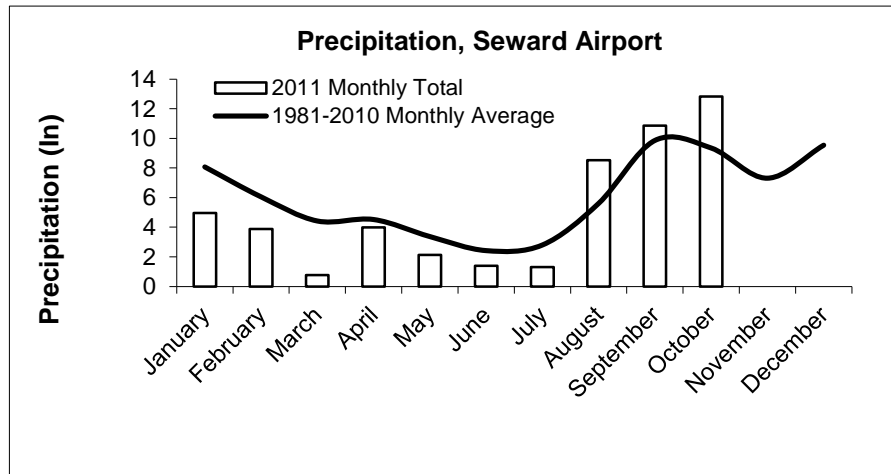
Read more to find out about the local climate for October 2011

Seward Airport Temperature, October 2011 (station 26438)



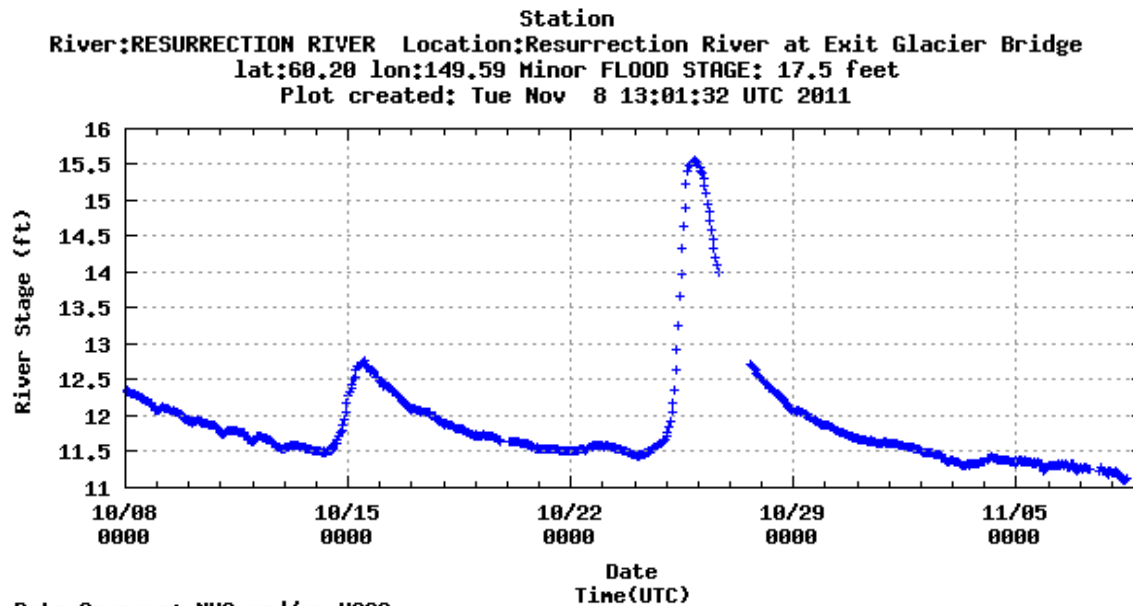
Monthly and 30-year (1981-2010) average temperature (F) at Seward airport. Monthly average values are shown with thin solid line. The range of maximum and minimum daily temperatures for each month are shown with dashed vertical lines.

Seward Airport Precipitation, October 2011



Monthly and 30-year (1981-2010) average precipitation (inches) at Seward airport illustrating above normal precipitation the past three months.

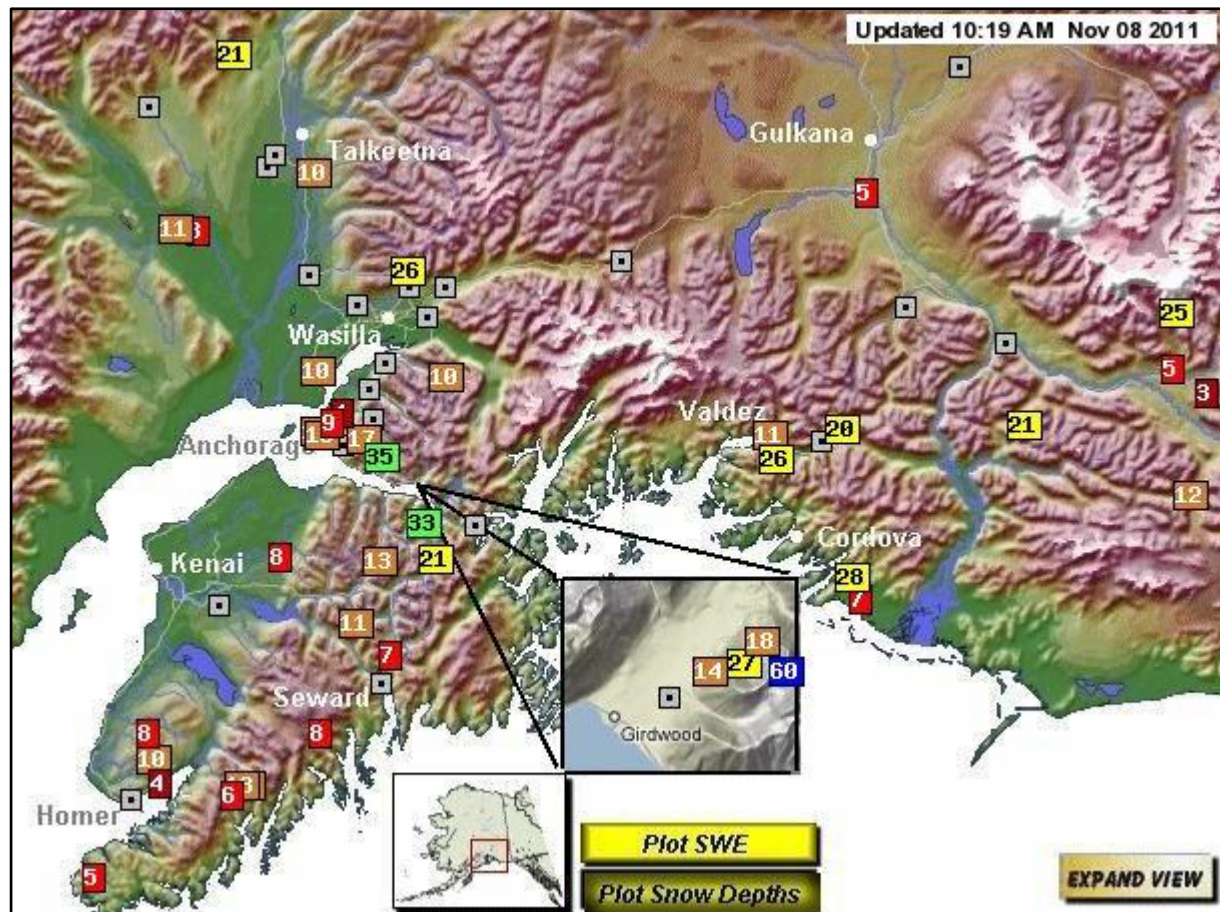
Rivers



Resurrection River at Exit Glacier Bridge is monitored by the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center:
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=pafc>.

Data is unavailable for the Exit Creek water level (stage height) for October.

Snow & Ice



Snow depths reported across southcentral Alaska on Nov. 8: http://aprfc.arh.noaa.gov/sd_pafc_sites.html. Snow is monitored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://www.ambcs.org/> with most measurements and reporting taking place December to May.

Weather Station data (map of [some] stations [Western Region Climate Center](#) or [MesoWest](#))

[Seward Airport](#)
[Seward Hwy MP#12](#)
[Grouse Crk Divide](#)
[Exit Glacier](#)
[Exit Glacier SNOTEL](#)
[Harding Icefield](#)
[McArthur Pass](#)
[Nuka Glacier](#)
[Pilot Rock](#)
[Buoy 76-Cape Cleare](#)

Weather Forecasts

[Seward Summary](#)
[Marine Forecast](#)
[Surface Map](#)
[Graphical Forecast](#)
[4-8 Day Forecast](#)